(a) whether Government have directed the Tobacca Board to purchase tobacco from farmers in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details of the orders issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Tobacco Board has authorised for Karnataka a crop size of 20.01 million kgs (m. kgs) in 1994-95. However, both registered and unregistered growers were permitted to sell excess tobacco resulting in total auction platform sale of 22.15 m. kgs.

एस०टी०सी० में हो रहे कदाचारों की जांच करने के लिए समिति

5846. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने विभिन्न वस्तुओं के संबंध में राज्य व्यापार निगम (एस०टी०सी०) में हो रहे कदाचारों की जांच करने के लिए एक समिति का गठन किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या समिति ने अब काम करना शुरू कर दिया है;

(ग) निगम के किन-किन विभागों के खिलाफ सरकार को शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(घ) क्या सरकार निगम के प्रबंधमंडल के खिलाफ कोई कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम): (क) से (ङ) विभिन्न वस्तुओं के आयात के बारे में समय-समय पर आरोप लगाए गए हैं। आवश्यक समझे जाने पर जांच की जाती है, और जांच अधिकारी की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर आगे की कार्रवाई की जाती है।

Satellite AIR Freight City Project

5847. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding satellite air freight city project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Satelite Air Freight City project is under consideration. A final decision has not yet been taken.

Encouraging Beedi Tobacco Cultivation in Andhra Pradesh

5848. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tobacco Board has studied the possibility of encouraging beedi tobacco cultivation in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether non-irrigated districts, of Nalgonda, Adilabad and Nizamabad are suitable for beedi tobacco cultivation; and

(d) steps proposed to increase cultivation of such tobacco in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE" (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Tobacco Board, presently, has no scheme for the production and marketing of beedi tobacco.

Exports of Electronics

5849. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total exports of electronics during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether Government have establishment any Electronic Export Promotional bodies; and

(c) whether Government is considering giving subsidies to promote electronic exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The total exports of electronic during the last three years are given below:—

Year	Rs. in crores
1992-93	901, 1078 1452
1993-94	(Provisional)
1994-95	

Source: (Electronics & Computer Software EPC).

(b) Ministry of Commerce has sponsored the Electronic & Computer Software Export Promotion Council for promoting exports of electronics and computer software.

(c) Presently, no such proposal is under contemplation.

Import of Pulses under OGL

5850. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import pulses under OGL; and

(b) the estimated quantity of pulses proposed to be imported under OGL and the availability of the same within the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Under the Export and Import Policy, 1992—97 (as amended upto 31st March, 1995), import of pulses, except toxic pulses, is permitted freely by all persons. Therefore, the quantity of pulses proposed to be imported can not be estimated.

Removing Curbs on Coffee Marketing

5851. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to scrap most of the curbs on Coffee marketing and allowing small growers freedom to sell all their produce directly at home or abroad; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Govt, have further liberalised the Coffee Marketting System by allowing 100% Free Sale Quota (FSQ) to small growers having holding size below 10 hectres and to other registered growers upto 70% FSQ under which the growers have the freedom to sell their produce both in domestic and export markets. This is expected to give growers fair prices and encourage them to re-invest in their plantations. More investment will give an impetus to productions and productivity.

Import of Edible Oil

5852. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 802 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue edible oil import during 1995-96;

(b) the total quantum of edible oil proposed to be imported during 1995-96; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) under the current Export and Import Policy, 1992—97 (as amended upto 31st March, 1995) all edible oils excluding Coconut Oil, Palm Kernel Oil, RBD Palm Oil and RBD Palm Stearin are freely importable. Therefore, it will not be possible to indicate any projection of import for the current year. However, State Trading Corporation (STC) has been authorised